

THE JACOBS REPORT
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MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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MINIMUM WAGE CREATES A LOOPHOLE

Overtime Exemptions Go by the Wayside

Michigan's recently signed minimum wage boost will discontinue exemptions for overtime pay that currently apply to 12 classes of work that include taxi and truck driving, small newspaper reporters and movie theater employees. According to federal law, the exemption is only in effect when minimum wage is at or below the federal level.

Anybody who works more than 40 hours a week will now be required to receive time and a half pay.

Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer said that the Legislature "would be foolish" to try to rescind the unintended provisions. He said the current minimum wage law is full of exclusions and that the interpretation of the new law represents a "long overdue correction."

Members of the business community disagreed. Barry Cargill of the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) said he feels some employers will not let their employees work overtime and he predicted that some jobs may be lost.

"It's bad for Michigan," he said.

Both the House and Senate are reviewing whether changes are needed in the law to clarify the exemptions.

Michigan's minimum wage will increase to \$6.95 per hour on October 1, departing from the federal minimum wage of \$5.15.

DMB: IN-STATE GOAL IS 90%

Department Targets Michigan Businesses

The Department of Management and Budget (DMB) announced that its goal is to make 90 percent of state purchases from Michigan businesses.

"Everyone understands self preservation," said DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe. "To the degree that we spend money on our own state - that makes sense."

Sharpe made her remarks at recent press roundtable in Lansing. The DMB director called the conference to announce an eight-week "Buy Michigan First" tour in which the department will try to facilitate interest in the Michigan businesses community. The tour starts Thursday and will run through June 8.

"It's an eight-week outreach program," Sharpe said. "We want Michigan businesses to know there's an opportunity and we want them to know what it takes to do business with the state. We want folks to know that there's work here."

The current level of state purchases done in Michigan is at 85 percent.

NAZI RALLY TO COST \$200,000

Riot Feared

With the American Nazi party invoking a riot in Toledo a few months ago, officials at the Capitol have increased their efforts to prevent a similar reaction in Michigan. That will come at a cost of about \$200,000.

A Nazi rally is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. April 22 at the Capitol.

"I think Toledo was a big wake-up call," said Jerry Lawler, the state Capitol building manager. "They were totally unprepared and people were injured and property was damaged."

Lawler, the Michigan State Police and a variety of other mid-Michigan law enforcement officials have been mapping out strategy for eliminating any violence before it begins. Federal officials have also participating in the planning.

"That (Toledo) mistake will not be repeated here," Lawler confidently said. The battle plan includes:

- 3,000 feet of chain link fencing that will be rented to help with crowd control
- Nazi demonstrators will be the only ones allowed on the Capitol steps
- Other proponents and counter demonstrators will be separated in a fenced-off area away from the Capitol steps
- More than 100 police officers supplemented with mounted patrols will be on the scene
- Traffic will be blocked off around the building
- Local businesses have been advised that they may want to shut down during the two-hour rally

Lawler said the state's objectives are clear: It wants to allow the group its free speech rights while protecting persons and property.

Lawler indicated that creating the no-fly zone near the Capitol steps was a lesson learned from a 1994 Ku Klux Klan rally where a flying object busted open the head of one of the speaking Klansmen, a scene captured by TV cameras.

Confining everyone to the back of the Capitol lawn means they will be "out of range where something could be thrown and someone injured."

Please note: The Legislature is currently on Spring Break and will return to action on Tuesday, April 18.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengiacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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